

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 9-13, 19-22, 26, and 31 have been canceled. Claims 4, 14, and 23 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 4-8, 14-18, 23-25, and 27-30 are pending.

The specification has been amended to delete the computer program listing appearing on pages 46-93. A computer program listing appendix on compact disc in compliance with 37 CFR 1.96(c) is being submitted herewith. The specification has also been amended to add appropriate references to the computer program listing appendix, including a reference in compliance with 37 CFR 1.77(b)(5).

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4-8, 14-18, and 23-25 contain allowable subject matter. Each of claims 4, 14, and 23 has been amended to be in independent form and includes all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. It is therefore believed that each of claims 4, 14, and 23 is allowable. Claims 5-8, 15-18, and 24-25 depend from claims 4, 14, and 23, respectively, and are therefore believed to also be allowable.

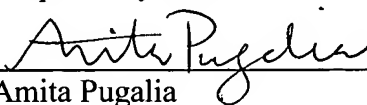
The Examiner has allowed claims 27-30.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,



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